

LOVENO,

over Menaggio, 1/2 an hour walk, via Castello, it is a beautiful village surrounded by fine Villas.

Nice and picturesques views of Bellagio and Lake of Lecco from VILLA VIGONI.

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Piazza Fontana, afternoon, tea is served as light lunch or refreshment, liqueurs, etc.

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- Guides - Works in paper, ancient art -

GUIDE

of

BELLAGIO

Omne tulit punctum, qui miscuit utile dulci, lectorem delectando, pariterque monendum. HORATIUS.

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C O M O
ROMEO LONGATTI
Italian firm edititing works of art
1912.

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from about 1000 years B. C. Formerly it was a theatre of war, nowa-days a centre of attraction, being the greatest cosmopolitan meeting place for tourists.

Nature and art go divinely hand in hand. It must be a man without soul, who, at the sight of those spots does not feel his heart pulsating more quickly!

BELLIGIO! These are souvenirs I wish to invoke in to the thought of everybody that treads thy sunny soil.

The principal environs of Bellagio:

Pescallo, S. Vittore (12 min. on foot), Aureggio, Regatola, Loppia (20 min. on foot), Guggiate, S. Giovanni, Suira, Casate, Visignola, S. Martino (30 min. on foot).

A visit, both to Bellagio and to the environs of this spot, cherished by nature, impresses upon the spirit an emotion, never to be forgotten, which inspires poets and supplies to artists so many charming themes.

Chief streets:

LUNGO LARIO (along the lake) UMBERTO I; SERBELLONI STREET (usually il FOSSATO); GARIBALDI STREET;

EUGENIO VITALI STREET.

Many narrow lanes zigzaging in a fantastic disorder, afford us, at every moment, the surprise of unexpected corners and picturesque views.

Chief roads:

COMMUNAL ROAD from Lungo Lario Umberto I to Loppia-Guggiate-S. Giovanni-Regatola.

PROVINCIAL ROAD by Regatola-Visignola-Guello-Civenna-Magreglio-Asso-Erba-Milano.

ROAD IN CONSTRUCTION: Bellagio-Limonta-Valbrona-Lecco and Bellagio-Lezzeno-Nesso-Como.

A railway construction between Bellagio Milan has been for a very long time, discussed but, as the saying goes:

On n'exécute pas tout ce qu'on se propose et le chemin est long du proget à la chose.

MOLIÈRE.

Easily said but not easily done.

Principal squares:

VITTORIO EMMANUELE SQUARE at the landing stage of S. GIACOMO SQUARE, where a sturdy tower once a fortress is still to be seen; it was formerly connected with the belfry, the same being built like a tower for defence.

Public gardens:

HERVEY PECHELL near the English church.

There is, a large fountain: Erected by-Hervey
and Blanche-Pechel-de la Boyssonade, to celebrate

the completion of the sixtieth year of the glorious Reign of Queen Victoria.



Bellagio.

DOMENICO VITALI'S garden with its groves and banks. The monument dedicated to Mella is to be admired; it bears the following inscription:

TO MELLA ANTONIO

Who, to his native Bellagio disclosed a new source of Wellfare. The Commune in his memory v-vii-mcmiix.

Principal piers:

EUGENIO VITALI PIER, near the point (in dialect: Puncia) of bifurcation of the lake, where the electric cable arrives from Cadenabia through a cable that is laid under water.

Charming view.

OFFICIAL PIER at Loppia.

PIER AT S. GIOVANNI: splendid viw on Tremezzina.

Hôtels:

GRAND HÔTEL BELLAGIO AND VILLA SERBEL-LONI,

HÔTEL G. BRETAGNE,

- » GENAZZINI ET MÉTROPOLE,
- » FLORENCE,
- » SPLENDID,
- » DU LAC,
- » PENSION SUISSE.

Both electric light and gas. Spring water. Every modern comfort.

Bars, cafes, inns, dairies, even on the mountains.

Offices :

LARIANA (Steamship Company) under the Arcades.

POST OFFICE: Lungo Lario Umberto I. TELEGRAPH: Giuseppe Garibaldi's street, n. 50 (open every day from 7 A. M. to 9 pm.).

PUBLIC TELEPHONE: behind Garibaldi's Hospital.

Lariana Bank (Greppi Stoppani):

Lungo Lario Umberto I. Discount and exchange business.

Pharmacy Bosisio:

Near the post office.

Doctors, both of medicine and surgery:

Dr. Cantù, at S. Vittore. Dr. Corbellini, at Regatola.

Large shops:

Speciality in dresses, silks, laces, blankets, carving in olive-wood, corals, shells, etc., photographs, books and antiquities.

Public baths « Alessandro Volta » ;

Both hot and cold baths, swimming. Lungo Lario Umberto I.

Theatre Beretta:

Giuseppe Garibaldi's street.

Concerts:

Famous town band. Dramatic Company. Neapolitans dance here their graceful tarantella with the mandoline and castagnettes.

Golf:

Both at Croce upon Menaggio and at Dervio.

Regatta:

Every year during the summer.

Navigation:

Both numerous and elegant boats in every direction In connection with Railway to Menaggio, Varenna, Colico, Lecco, Como. Regular goods service, both slow and fast. Trips by motorboats: price by arrangement. Trips in rowing boat per hour: frs: 1,50 for every rower.

Carriages :

Brakes, omnibus, landaus, victoria.

Mail coaches Bellagio-Civenna. See the tariff at the end.

Police station ;

Carabinieri: G. Garibaldi street. The traveller has nothing to fear from beggars and such like, as the law are very severe against such people.

The inhabitants of Bellagio are jovial, sober, polite and industrious.

Custom officers: In order to prevent smuggling, the officers of Customs House, both at Pescallo and S. Giovanni, possess torpedoboats provided with powerful search light which, now and then strikes like a flash of lightening, the eyes of the tourist who is walking along the shores, or rowing in a boat.

Municipality (Town Hall):

G. Garibaldi street. On the Town Hall there is a tablet to Giuseppe Garibaldi, erected by the people of Bellagio in the month of August 1907, on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of the hero, in which is sculptured the letter sent by Garibaldi to the Workmens Society that chose him as its president.

Church service :

At St. Jacques Church. Mass at 8.30 o'clock till Easter, at 8. o'clock after Easter. High Mass at 10.30.

Vespers and blessing at 3 o' elock pm. At the English Church, service at 8. o'clock and 10.30 during the season.

During the season Evangelist service.

Walks

to the Villas of Bellagio

HE commune of Bellagio possesses a series of charming villas, with gardens displaying a wealth of southern vegetation and striking vistas.



Bellagio.

It is preferable to visit the villas, especially on the banks of the lake, by boat, even if the crossing is a little longer, just to enjoy the manifold and characteristic impressions.

Villa Serbelloni;

It is situated where, as by enchantment, the wooded promontory rises above the blue waters and the lake parts into two branches, that of Como and that of Lecco.

Splendid views. Both nature and art have rivalled with one another to embellish it. Like an arrow of gold, the charm penetrates into one's heart making it beat quickly: a wave of delight inundates one. Ou the summit there are the ruins of a castle pulled down in 1375 by Jean Galeas Visconti and the precipitous rock whence, as the saying goes, Isotta Borgomanero, the stepdaughter of Marquis Stanga, used to thrown her adorers. It may be that here to the south-east, rose the Plinius Villa, called *Tragoedia* (tragedy) on account of its rocks, in the shape of cothurus, which means: stage for artists of old.

It is also here that the Abbot G. Parini, poet, both lyric and satiric wrote his poem: il Giorno (the day).

Adm. every day 1 fr. Tickets to be had at Hôtels. By coach: 20 min. See tariff at the end.

Villa Fanny ;

At the foot of Villa Serbelloni lies in beautiful grounds Buttafava Valentini's property. The visitor can enjoy the lovely views of the lake of Colico in all its splendour.

Free adm. 6 min. walk.

Villa Melzi:

It was built by the duke François Melzi d'Eril, made by Napoleon I Vice President of the new Italian Republic. Behold the Goddess of beauty. The palace with royal luxury, contains some works by Canova, Vela, Fracaroli, Appiani, Thorwaldsen.

In front of the palace: Apollo and Méléagr, two splendid statues, sculptured in 1700. North of the same, the bust of Loetitia Bonaparte and of Joséphine Beauharnais (Canova), moreover those of Minerva and of Alfieri. Not very far from here



Dante e Beatrice (Villa Melzi).

the reproduction of *Milan's Lazzaretto*, from. St. Charles times. In the middle of the path-way on the enchanting shores: is the group in marble, of *Dante* and *Beatrice* by Comolli (Canova's school).

The mortuary Chapel contains both the Sacred Family and the Christ, by Comolli; the sarcophagus of the Duke François Melzi, sculptured by Nesti, and some more family monuments.

Adm. both to the garden and Chapel, on Thursday and on holidays 1 fr. From Bellagio to the gates of the Villa 18 min. by boat: 15 min. (2 frs.), by carriage: 10 min.

Villa Principe Triulzio, formerly Poldi Pezzoli:

The marvellous park surrounds the place with splendid vegetation. Near the palace there are some relics, of Roman ruins.

From the hamlet of Guggiate, one sees from the road a huge red mausoleum (architect Macciacchini) both for the last Gonzague and for Jaques Poldi Pezzoli.

Adm. free (?). Walking, 25 min. by boat, 18 min. (2 frs.) by coach, 15 min.



Villa Principe Triulzio.

Villa Trotti :

The owner; the Marchese Trotti Bentivoglio, has profound technical knowledge of all branches of horticulture.

In the shady gardens of this Villa are to be found many rare trees and shrubs, the welfare of each being carefully superintended by the Marchese.

Adm. free, yet a gratuity to the porter, of the Villa Triulzio, is always welcome.



Villa Trotti.

Villa Amsinck:

In Lombard style. Profusion, both of ornaments and valuable furniture.

A magnificent park rich in rare trees and plants; New Holland gum trees trumpetwood trees, corniferous trees, etc. The delicate essence of flowers inebriates the senses, brings a smile to the lips and happiness into hearts.

Adm. free. 35 min. walk: by boat 25 min. (2.50 frs.): by carriage 22 min.

Villa Frizzoni;

Privileged because of its sunny position whence a fine panorama over all Tremezzina is to be seen. The visit may last 45 min.: Adm free.

Villa Besana:

In pelagisc style. The odorous park is a splendid sight.

The visit may last 45 min.: Free ent.

Villa Giulia:

It used to belong to Leopold I of King of Belgium; at the present time, it is the property of Countess Josephine Blome de Boul Schauwenstein.

The large palace is of marvellous effect. The English garden is like a piece of Paradise fallen to earth, Here are kiosks, alleys, meadows, groves, nests of singing birds and springs:

Ici s'appelant d'un mutuel amour la terre et les eaux se cherchent tour-à-tour; ici un parfum divinement bel qui mène le ciel en terre, la terre en ciel.

[Here, earth and waters regard each other in turn in mutual love: here is a divine perfume that carries the earth to the heavens and the heavens to the earth.]

Rich vegetation.

Speciality camelias, and lemon and cedar trees.

A very long and straight avenue (800 m.) leads through a kind of stair way bordered by cyprus trees to Loppia.

Adm. Sunday and Thursday, unless there be a special permission C. 50: on foot, 25 min. by boat 25 min. (3 frs.) by coach, 15 min.

Villa Montù:

Formerly Belmonte (fine mountain) beause of it lovely vistas, that make Carducci sing, the bymn to nature:

O monti, o fiumi, o prati, o amori integri e sani; o affetti esercitati fra una schiatta d'umani alta, gentile e pura; o natura, o natura; da questo reo mercato di falsitati, anelo a voi come piagato augello al proprio cielo da 'l fango ond'è implicata l'ala a 'l sereno usata.

Oh! mountains! Oh rivers, oh meadows, oh loves pure and gentle, of affections carried on among a progeny of gentle pure and light throng of nature, of nature: from this guilty market 1 long for you, like a wounded little bird, wishing to beat its way out of the treacherous grove to the blue sky.

Adm. free; on foot, 15 min. by coach, 12 min.



Villa Boysson-

nade ;

Very handsome. Marvellous views both from the Tennis Lawn and from the bower.

Palace in wood work, of good taste. Near the palace a bas relief: «The glories of Italy». The proprieter, Sir Hamilton,

Sir Hamilton, owns a most interesting library

Adm.: 50 Cent. for the benefit of the Charity League. On foot 12 min. by coach: 7 min.

Walks

to see the Churches of Bellagio

Cathedral of St. James:

Oue of the most important examples of Lombard architecture (XII century) restored lately. Take notice of the purity and elegance of line of the three aisles, their lace ornamentations, gracious garlands, true abbreviation of the perfection of a style. The altar-pieces of the aspes, same style:



Also the fine baroque of the chief altar-piece, the whole in gilded woodwork.

In the aisle towards the north have been brought to light the details of a St. Ursula, fresco painting, (A. D. 1500): the new frescoes of the south aisle are not so good. The emblems of St. Matthew, of St. Mark, St. Luke and of St. John, the man,

the lion, the bull, and the eagle, which form the walls of the pulpit, probably date from the VIII century; the capitals of the little columns retain the traces of Roman art.

Among the precious fittings is noteworthy the present cross, spear of the clergy, a jewel of gothic art.

The martyrdom of St. James the Greater, was painted in 1607 by Aragonus Aragonius of Bresse one of the first pupils of Alexander Buonvicini, nicknamed Moretto.

In the chapel to the right, on the lower side the ancient fresco of Notre Dame des Grâces, smiles in a celestial way.

The oratory of St. George:

Very much in decay, built in the times of Baroque epoch.

Le méchant goût du siècle en cela me fait peur Non pères tous grossiers l'avaient beaucoup meilleur. Le Misanthrope.

[The bad taste of the century frightens me Our fathers, although rough had better taste].

St. George:

English church, build in 1887, in Lombard style for the Anglo-American colony.

At Loppia:

Both the ruins and the Campanile of St. Marie, still remain as a protest to the great aesthetics of old.

On foot, 20 min. by boat, 16 min. (2 frs.) by coach, 13 min.

At St. Giovanni:

The church of the same name was painted in style of Louis XVI by Tagliaferri. Worth seing there is the chief altar-piece in wood-work and the Road to the Cross in plaster. A niche ou the left side of the sanctuary contains the *Immaculate Conception*, in white marble, gift by the Ducaess Melzi Brignole Sale of Genoe: Parodi (XVII century) left in this statue the mark of his genius.

The wall on the right side, next to the pulpit shows « The Triumph of Christ », painted on wood in bright colours by Gaudenzio Ferrari (A. D. 1532) transferred to canvas by Zanki da Bergamo. At the top of the frame; six angels who stand like a crescent round Christ, with the instruments of the passion: down below the clouds, St. Peter, St. J. Baptist, St. Stephen, St. Paul, ten good and faithful people on their knees praying in ecstasy.

It is a master piece of art, both elegant and of rare conception in the history of painting.

i On foot 30 min. by boat 25 min. (frs. 2.50) by coach 20 min.

At Visignola:

The Madonna's church contains a good painting of the Descent from the Cross, hanging neglected on the confessional, and a first class « tryptique » (Luini's school) detached from the wall, behind the chief altar-piece.

Here and there are some other paintings of interest. In front of the church, there is a beautiful view of several hamlets nestling in a quiet row of hills covered with groves, meadows and well cultured fields.

On foot: 30 min. By coach: 22 min.

At S. Martino :

The oratory of the same name contains: the Council, St. Thomas and other paintings belonging to the siècle d'or, which fill both eye and soul with pleasure.

To enter, ask the Parson for the key.

Ou foot: 33 min. By coach: 28 min.

BELLAGIO

Meeting point for excursions between the two lakes

BLUE GROTTO'S DAIRY.

It takes one hr. by boat. Price: 5 frs. Picturesque spectacle. Adm. to the grotto: Cent. 60.

After the Grotto, Lezzeno

sans fortune, pays d'enfer; sans soleil d'hiver, été sans lune.

It is a district without fortune, and like Hell without sun in Winter, or moon in summer.

DATRY OF THE LAKE OF LECCO. — It is well frequented both for its pleasant coolness and for its beautiful panorama.

On foot: 40 min. by boat: 1/5 h. Price: 3 frs.

From Bellagio to Limonta (height 249 m.):

Thomas Grossi, both author and poet immortalized Limonta, with his *Marco Visconti*. The chief curiosity of the hamlet is the « *Pietra Pendula* » rocking stone (commonly called: *Pièll*) monument of Druids.

Ou foot: 1 h. By boat: 1 h. Price: 6 frs.

From Bellagio to Vergonese (313 m.):

Fine view of the immense blue of the sky upon the waters of the banks and landscape.

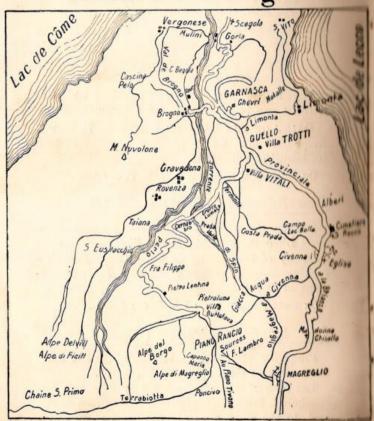
The man of science closes his eyes to this unspeakable beauty of earth to open those of the soul, to the glory of truth, the basis of progress.

The thoughts of the soul are better than the expressions in words themselves. The spirit gives life, the written words nulify.

The way: Bellagio S. Giovanni (carriage road) Vergonese (mule path) on foot, 50 min. by coach, 20 min. then 20 min. on foot.

Vergonese point of departure to Gorla, Brogno and Monte Nuvolone.

Monts de Bellagio



From Bellagio to Gorla (402 m.):

Both charming and varied retrospective vistas of beautiful *Bellagio*, as well as of the arms of the lake. The landscape grows larger as the road mounts in a zigzaging way.

There one sees the meeting of contrary elements, unity in variety, essence both of harmony and of beauty.

On foot: 45 min. - by coach: 30 min.

5 min. to Gorla, by the path of Ma'allè-Garnasca. 5 min. before Gorla, at the Mulini (Mills), one can leave the carriage-road, pass the bridge reach St. Giovanni in 25 min.

During this excursion full of pleasure, you may read the magnificent book of nature: right above you the sapphire blue of the sky, at your feet the rich greensward.

Early in the morning you will see the sun changing into diamonds even the smallest drops of dew, while a gentle light trembles in an atmosphere of an inebriating attraction.

From Bellagio to Monte Garnasca (688 m.):

General view of the peninsula of Bellagio, of the three arms of the lake and of the jagged Grigna. The traveller is struck by such beauty, even as the astronomer is by the immensity of the universe. At sun rise, the heart opens to love, the soul to grandeur:

> quali i fioretti dal notturno gelo chinati e chiusi poichè il sol gli imbianca si drizzan tutti aperti in loro stelo.

> > DANTE.

[Like flowers bent and closed through the icy-cold night, they all arise, opening at the touch of the sun on their petals].

Visgnola is reached on foot in about 1 h.; by Gorla in one hour 1/4; by Chevri (585 m.) in 1 1/4 h.

By coach the way is: Bellagio Gorla-Chevri-Makalle (650 m.) time: 1 1/2 h.

The summit of Garnasca, from Makallè is reached walking in 8 min.

From Bellagio to Brogno (582 m.):

The Roman bridge, (Benvenuto Vitali) is splendid.

From the Rotonde of Vitali's Park as well from the little tower striped with red and white lines, the environs of Bellagio present themselves as an agreable surprise like a necklace of shining parls. — Bellagio, appears in all its beauty before your eyes.

Carriage route: Bellagio-Gorla-Chevri-Via Cecilia Mella.

Both on foot and by coach: 1 1/2 hr.

In order not to return by the same way, the tourist can walk down to the Mills of Gorla by Cascina Regola (25 min.) or by Vergonese through the shady valley of Brogno (33 min.). Brogno point of departure to the Mountain Nuvolone, 1 ¹/₄ hr. for the Alps of Vill, and Alp of the Picitt 1 ³/₄ hr.

From Bellagio to Monte Nuvolone (1078-1093 m.)

Along the way look back now and then to enjoy the beautiful vistas. The panorama seen from the summit confirms once more that Bellagio is the pearl of the lake on Como, the diadem of the fine Brianza, the honour of nature. The scented

vapours of the pure and caressing air, give usa celestial joy.

On foot: 3 h. — Guide: 6 frs.

The place is reached by Vergonese. Cascina Pelo by Brogno.

From Bellagio to Piano di Guello (611 m.):

The scenery is all a greensward, fields of perfumed flowers, surrounded by modulating hills. The Trotti's villa is quietly situated before a park of tropical vegetation.

La lumière du tiède et bleu matin d'été
enveloppe les bois où verdissent les mousses;
l'air est plein de senteurs magnétiques et douces,
et jamais les oiseaux n'ont plus gaiment chanté...
Tout être semble vivre avec félicié....
N'oublirai-je jamais les trahissons passées
comme la terre oublie, en ce matin si beau,
et la neige et l'hiver et les bises glacées?

[The light of the soft and blue morning covers the woods where the moss is verdant; the air is full of magnetic scents and never before did the birds sing so merrily. Every being scems alive with happines.

Shall I ever forget past treasons, like the-earth forgets in this lovely morning the snow, the winter and the icy winds?]

Provincial route: Bellagio-Gorla-Guello.

On foot and by coach: 1 1/4 h.

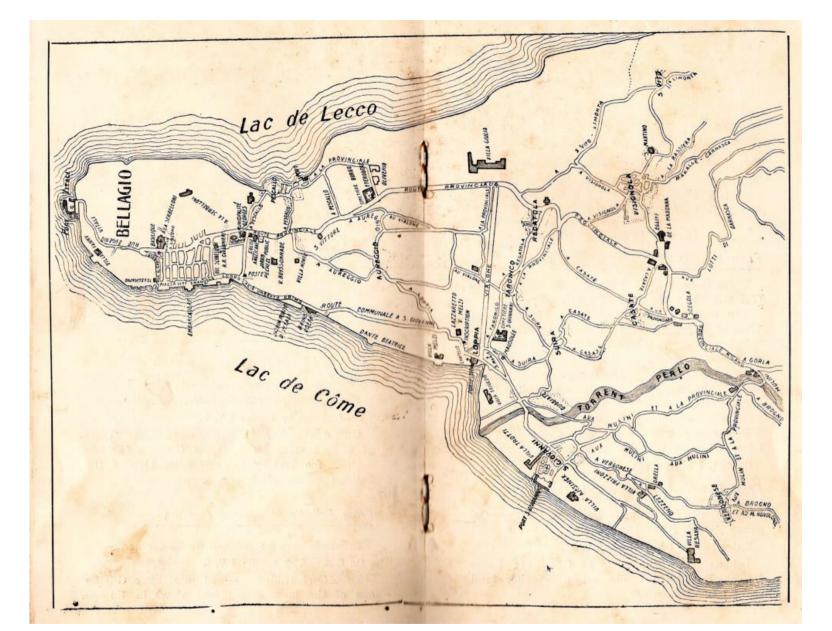
Guello is the departing-point to Limonta (25 min. of steep-descent on foot), to Civenna (40 min. both on foot and by coach) for the Alps of Bellagio, Civenna, Magreglio, Torno.

From Bellagio to Civenna (623 m.):

Provincial route: Bellagio Guello Civenna.

On foot and by coach: 1 1/4 h.

To Alberi (736 m. — 20 min. after Guello), one of the most magnificent views in Europe.



Something fanciful, of charming power develops, under the eyes of the tourist: one sees Nature like an unceasing aspiration towards the infinite. Why cannot one feel the power of wing that lifts and ennobles.

At Civenna behind the church yard and Chapel, on unspeakable joy, a madness of enthusiasm touches the heart; it is the reflection of the everlasting beauty.

How can one forget the impression of the down! This woman endowed with celestial graces, with rosy fingers, opens the gilded gates of orient.

> Tant voir et tant admirer m'épuise! GOETHE

> > [So much beanty exhausts me].

From Bellagio to Erba (Brianza):

From Bellagio to Magreglio, culminating point (737 m.), the route goes on continually.

The traveller is fascinated by the charming vista of different villages, delightfully situated.

Not very far away beyond Magreglio, one arrives through *Val Asina*, to Brianza, the richest and most fertile district of Lombardy. Beautiful villas are scattered on the slopes of its hills. The fields and meadows are drained by lovely rivers, which from afar resemble silver ribbons.

Brianza is as well famous for its waterfalls, small lakes rich with fish, old castles and Roman ruins.

On foot, 7 h. by coach, 4 h.

From Bellagio to Piano Rancio (999 m.):

Carriage route: Bellagio - Guello - Prà Filippo - Capanna Amalia - Piano Rancio.

Either on foot or by coach, 2 1/2 hr.

Let us follow the route of Guello to Piano Rancio. Both on this side and on the other stand several countryhouses. At the Villa Eugenio Vitali, the two columns of Roman time, which sustain the court-gates surprise us by the beauty of their style.

After the Villa Eugenio Vitali, there is the pathway to the Terminitt (698 m.), leading to the artificial lake of Bolla and to Monte Campo (806 m.). For a good walker the best is to come back by Civenna. The trip may last (from Guello, there and back): 2 h.

After that the route, on the left to Prada-Valle di spin-Giacca-Civenna and Giacca-Magreglio, there and back: 3 h.

At the Villa Sancassani the marvellous Grotto of the Lumaca (snails).

At Prà Filippo and Capanna Amalia (870 m.) starts, on the right hand a rough pathway both to the Alp of Vill and to the Alp of Picitt (1231 m.), (there and back from Capanna Amalia): 2 h.

After Prà Filippo, there is Pietra Lentina, a gigantic stome monolith, of which the size is about 1350 m. c.

At Rancio, after the Villa Buttafava, the Stone Luna (Moon Stone), that is an erratic block with 4 distinct faces of about 50 c.m. which seems to balance itself on one foot.

Near the Rancio begins the source of the river Lambro and the pipes for drinking water that come down as far as Bellagio. In 30 min. one reaches the Capanna Maria (Hut Maria), where the pure melody that swings through the air, the sight of luxuriant meadows, the fir groves, the cowherd's chalet, the splendid Villa form a picture of a better world.

Piano Rancio is the departure point to Civenna and Magreglio (50 min.): to the Alp of Borgo (1170 m.) — Terrabiotta (1455 m.) — S. Primo (2 ¹/₂ h.) — to the Valley of Déla-Monte Poncivo (1480 m.) — Piano del Tivano (1 ¹/₂ h.).

A vast extension before an imposing chain of mountains. Poetry finds there a fertile ground. During the summer the cattle enjoy the aromatic herbs.

il divino del pian silenzio verde.

CARDUCCI.

[The divine green of the silent plain].

Tradition tells that here was a chalet for Andefleda, the bride of Theodoric, King of the Goths.

The Buco della Nicolina is most interesting, a huge precipice, where the waters of the tableland flow, falling thence into the lake.

On foot: 4 h. by coach as far as Piano Rancio. From Piano Rancio as far as Piano del Tivano 1 ½ h. on foot.

From Bellagio to the mountain S. Primo

— 1685 m. —

The S. Primo is the sovereign of the mountains of Bellagio's district. Ou the sharp top that seems to pierce the sky, stands a Chapel Refuge, adoration homage of the XX century, to Jesus Saviour.

The rays of the Rising sun, which bathes the surrounding mountains with a rosy tinge, while their base is still plunged in darkness, move and exalt one.

The panorama stetches as far as one can see on the seven Lombard lakes, on the idyllic Lombard plains and on the majestic chain of Alps with their summits eternally coverd with snow.

Quanto per mente o per occhio si gira con tant'ordine fè ch'esser non puote senza gustar di Lui chi ciò rimira.

DANTE.

On foot, 5 h.: Guide, 10 frs. By coach as far as the Alp del Borgo, 3 h. From the Alp of Borgo to S. Primo, 2 h. on foot.

From Bellagio to the Orrido (gorge) of Nesso;

At Nesso, the torrent of the valley Nosé descending from the high rocks through the picturesque gulley, forms a cascade of romantic charm.

The sun rays, playing sometimes into the foaming waters, give to the enchanted eye the iris colours.

Free adm. The sight of the cascade at Castello Bridge, is very amusing.

By boat: 2 h. Price: 12 frs.

From the cascade the oratory of S. Maria (X1 century) is reached in 25 min.

There are paintings which carry us back to the classic period of Comensis art.

Coming back, either by boat or steamer, exactly in the middle of the lake, between Nesso and Argegno, in a distant background of gigantic summits, affording the most radiant spectacle of nature, there appears on a sudden the heavenly shore of Bellagio.

From Bellagio to Villa Pliniana:

This Villa of severe aspect, owes this name to its exceedingly curious spring described as a hydraulic phenomenon: in about an hour the spring arises and diminishes. It is the play of a natural system situated in the hole of the mountain.

Napoleon I stayed at the princely Villa Plinia in the year 1797.

.... tutto provò.... la fuga e la vittoria, la reggia e il triste esiglio; due volte nella polvere due volte sugli altar.

ALESSANDRO MANZONI.

[.... he tried everything, both flight and victory, both the Royal-palace, and exile, twice in the dust; twice on the altars.]

Adm: 50 cm. by boat, 3 h. Price 16 frs. Steamer Bellagio-Palanzo, or Bellagio-Torno. At Torno visit the Lombard Churches both, of S. Tecla and of St. John.



BELLAGIO

centre of excursions

out of the peninsula

From Bellagio to Fiume Latte:

At 300 m. above the lake of Lecco a rivulet comes out of a cavern and falls into the lake; its waters are so white that people call it. Fiume Latte, River of milk.

In summer the waters are abundant but in winter nearly dry.

If the visitors speak of it as a phenomenon it is because it diminishes during the great heat and, in some days the waters come back in the same volume as before.

It has happened that in full winter there was as much water as in summer, but this last phenomenon, has not been repeated since 1796.

Adm. to the cavern: 50 cm. by boat 30 min. Price: 3 frs.

From Bellagio to the tower of Vezio ou Varenna;

The Castle Vezio, of the VI century, residence of Theodolinda, was at the XVI century the residence of Hercule Sfondrati, who ruled the shores of Bellagio and of other places, under the name of Count de la Rive. At the present time there remains but the outlyng turret, with the ruins of the castle, from the top of which the peninsula of Bellagio gives to the eye the appearence of a

.... teatro verdeggiante e vago di ville e piante e d'aurea luce e d'ombre, sparso così, che sembra opra di mago. [.... verdant and vague theatre so scattered with villas, plants, full of light and shadows, as to resemble a magicians work].

In the oratory of Vezio there are mural paintings of the XIV century.

By boat as far as Varenna: 35 min. Price: 3 frs. After that: 25 min. ou foot.

From Bellagio to Orrido (gorge) of Bellano:

At Bellano the torrent Pioverna precipitating in foam from a considerable height forms some magnificent cascades which hurry down, dashing themselves into a wild cavern.

Adm. to the gorge: 50 cm.

The Pioverna renders winter bitterly cold: hence the epigramm:

qui veut prouver les peines de l'enfer qu'il aille à Varenna l'été, à Bellano l'hiver.

[who wishes to try the pains of hell may go to Varenna in summer, to Bellano in Winter].

At Bellano visit the Cathedral (1348): worth sceing for its façade with the chief door fully arched, in marble of alternate white and black adorned with the crest of Visconti and Torriani.

Near the pier there is a monument (work of Antonio Tantardini, 1876) to Thomas Grossi (1790-1853), which bears the beantiful epigraph dictated by A. Manzoni:

IL TUO NOME È GLORIA D'ITALIA O TENERO E PODEROSO POETA CUI SEMPRE ISPIRÒ IL CUORE.

[THY NAME IS A GLORY TO ITALY O! TENDER AND POWERFUL POET ALWAYS INSPIRED BY THY HEART].

By boat: 1 h. Price, 6 frs. with one rower, 10 frs. with

Tartavalle, station of mineral waters is reached on foot from Bellano in 2 h. $^{1}/_{2}$.

At the peninsula of Piona rests in peaceful situation the Abbey of the Benedictines, in witness of the period of splendour, with monuments of art. The church dates from the XI century, the Convent from 1252-1257 year. The injuries wrought on it by the restoration are to be regretted at Piona as well as at the Cathedral at Bellagio.

Admission free. By boat: 3 hours. Price: 18 frs. The boat men will take you round the small lake of Piona. A charming gulf, 3 km. wide 3 km. long.



CROSS OF ITASTE OF THE CHURCH OF S. JACQUES

BELLAGIO

From Bellagio to Gravedona:

Gravedona formerly capital of the « REPUBLIC OF THE THREE PIEVI » is of great interest:

- The baptistry of St. Mary del Figlio erected in the XI century.
- 2) The church of S. Vincent (XI century) in the shape of a crypt containing a cross, a chalice and embroideries of the golden century.
- 3) The palace Frova with 4 towers built in 1586 by the Cardinal Tolomeo Gallio.

By boat: 3 h. Price: 18 francs.

In one hour one goes from Gravedona to the Parish church of the Peglio, which contains the appreciated frescoes by Giovanni Mauro della Rovere nicknamed the Flamingo (1615-1625). Splendid view both of the Valteline and the chain of mountains. From this fair spot Bellagio smiles in youthful beauty.

From Bellagio to Chateau-fort of Musso;

— 482 meters high —

Jean-Jacques Medicis, brother to the Pope Pius IV and uncle to St. Charles Borromeo, left this castle to challenge the Grisons and Francis Sforza. After a seige of 10 months he gave over his domination to the Milanese. Both Musso and its castle were destroyed. The Marquis Manzi has recently transformed the lower part of the castle into a very romantic park, which affords a charming view of the corner of Bellagio. Entrance free.

By boat: 2 1/2 hours. Price: 16 francs.

In one hour the traveller walks either to Cremia to visit the parish church, the St. Michael conquering the Devil by Paul Caliari, named Veronese

(16 century) or in ½ hour to Dongo to see the great Lombard Steel-Works and the frescoes (1600) created by the Flamingo in the Lombard church of Santa Maria (12 century).

From Bellagio to Villa Vigoni in ancient times

Millus, at Menaggio:

Treasures in objects of art. We may mention the sculptures by Marchesi, Manfredini, Imhof, Baruzzi, Thorwaldsen. A splendid vista of Bellagio of a surprising beauty, which attracts us like a magnet towards this garden of beautiful Italy.

Admission: 1 francs. By boat: 40 minutes, 3 francs.

After ½ hours walk, going either by carriage road or mule path close to it, the Cassino where Massimo d'Azeglio, champion of the Italian independance, composed in the year 1883 his celebrated romance: Ettore Fieramosca.

To the traveller coming from Lugano, before arriving at Menaggio, the tongue of land on which is Bellagio appears of a sudden like a bewitching apparation, with the back ground of the blue waters and sky. At first it is such a strange surprise that, one might imagine it a dream.

From Bellagio to Madonna of S. Martino

— 485 meters high —

At this Eldorado of Englishmen, the tourist, by the side of Bellagio says enchanted. Oh! what a paradise! It is the threshold of Heaven and lowering the head, he worships silently the masterpiece of creation.

By boat: 20 minutes. Price: 3 francs. Then walk: 50 minutes by a path somewhat steep.

From S. Martino in 4 1/2 hours one ascends ever more marvelling the mountain Crocione (1660 meters), whence the image of perfect harmony, the

varied beauty of the Bellagian landscape and its splendid surroundings are displayed before one's eye. The scenery is really worth the trouble of the climb. Man either in peril or in sorrows feels up here, to have fresh hope and solaces himself:

.... comme l'oiseau posé peur un instant sur des rameaux trop fréles, qui sent plier la branche, et qui chante, pourtant, sachant qu'il a des ailes.

[like the bird perched for one instant on a too fragile bough, it feels the yielding branch; but it sings, knowing it has wings.]

Guide: 10 francs.

From Bellagio to Tremezzo:

Several villas with elegant architecture, soft colours, and splendid reflection effects kiss the waters of Tremezzina charmingly situated in a large amphi-theatre on the slope of Croiconi.

The Villa Carlotta, property of Duke George of Saxe-Meiningen, possesses a park extraodinarily rich in both exotic and rare flowering plants. The palace contains works by Canova, Bienaimé, Fontana, Pacetti, Acquisti, Müller, Hayez, Lorden, Wicar. There is a fine piece of work in the Bassi-Relievi, of Thorwaldsen: Triumphant entrance of Alexander the Great into Babylon.

Admission: 1 francs. Time; after 8 o'clock, every 1/2 hour.

The Oratory of the Villa also contains works of art. From the Villa Carlotta a nice walk leads to the magnificent church of S. Lorenzo, situated in prominence exposed fully to the golden rays of the sun. The interior was brilliantly painted by Tagliaferri in the style of Louis XVI. Behind the church stands the excellent pension Peduzzi.

After the church, at the lake the traveller is enraptured by the sumptuous villa of Count Albertoni and Sola. Both easy and interesting excursions: 1) At Bonzanigo the church of S. Abbondio in the noblest style of the renaissance; a classic



Villa Carlotta

fresco on the dome by Jules Quaglio of Laino.
2) Above Bonzanico: the Sasso degli Stampi, block of calcaire, encrusted with ammonites. 3) Above Intignano: the Bucone, large cavern, and the Buco della rotella, the hole of the roulette.

From the shore of Tremezzina, Bellagio displays its peculiar charms. The other beauties diminish in comparison with Bellagio.

By road: 50 minutes. Price: 3 francs.

From Bellagio to Lenno;

Down below the choir of S. Stephen, there are some traces of the Temple of Apollo of 8 small columns of the Roman decadence, in Cipolin marble of Musso with some Christian inscriptions of the 6 th century.

Near to it there is an octagional baptistery in the shape of a quadrangular cupola (572 ?), with fonts of the 11 th century. At the red Villa Delmati stood probably the villa of Pliny, Junior; named Comoedia (Comedy), for it rests like the soccus, viz. The low sandals used by Roman and Grecian artists. From Lenno the garland of fine Bellagian villas and hills shines with its best and peculiar splendour.

By boat: 1 hour. Price: 5 francs.

From Bellagio to the Punta of Balbianello:

At this point finely wooded and moistened by the cool waters of the lake stands the Villa Arconati Visconti, built in 1785 by the Cardinal Durini. Silvio Pellico stayed here, the view both eastward and westward of abrupt cliffs and steep rocks and of the peaceful mountainous landscape forms the background which livelily contrasts with the Bellagian banks all in flower, like a splendid vestibule of everlasting altars, the source of continual delights.

By boats: 1 hour. Price: 5 francs.

From Bellagio to the Island of Comacina;

This island, the only one of the Lake of Como, was formerly a town surrounded like a fortress by towers, walls and ramparts. Its name in the century was *Christopolis*. It is here where in the year 688 the King Kunibert fled and in the year 962 the King's family Berengar found refuge. To-day there are to be seen only the ruins both of forts and 9 Roman churches. *Admission*: 1 franc. In front of the Island Comacina, at Ospedaletto of

Giovi one can admire the curious Gothic tower of the 4th century.

By boat: 1 1/2 hours. Price: 1 franc, with one rower, and 2 francs with three rowers.

From Bellagio to the Madonna of Soccorso

— 419 meters high —

One can reach this point going by Lenno as well as by Campo, through a good path; along the same route stand 15 chapel's stations containing some plastic works and good frescoes by Torriani and Silva. As soon as the tourist reaches the smiling and shady summit, he feels surprised, inebriated at the charming vistas on the table-land, where used to stand once upon a time the Temple of Cèrés of Elensis, goddess of agriculture; at the present time there stands the celebrated sanctuary of the Madonna del Soccorso. It is here that a great statesman tired of the vanity of the world felt his heart full of this sweet expression directed to the Holy Virgin:

Quand mes yeux obscurcis baisseront vers la tombe, quand ma lèvre aura bu le calice de fiel, donne, moi pour voler des ailes de colombe, et viens me recevoir à la porte du Ciel!

[When my darkened eyes are lowering to the tomb, when my lips have drunk the cup of bitterness, give me wings of doves that I may fly to-wards the gates of heaven where I beg you to receive me.]

By boat: 1 hour. Price: 5 francs. And then: 40 minutes walking.

From the Madonna of Soccorso, the convent church (11 century) of S. Benedetto is reached in 1 ½ hours where many objects afford satisfaction from the point of view both artistic and historic. From here in the midst of meadows, plants and jagged rocks one reaches the mountain Galbiga (1697 meters), whence the thoughts goes to the large horizon as on the mountain Generoso.

L'impuro miasma di basse passioni, di biechi rancori, d'ingorde ambizioni, di conscie menzogne non giunge quassù. Quest'aura serena solleva le menti, purifica i petti negli animi ardenti, risveglia ed infonde virili virtù!

CAMBRAY-DIGNUY.

[The impure miasma of low passions, of vile grudge of greedy ambitions, of conscious lies does not reach this point, This peaceful air raises the thoughts and purifies the mind awakening and giving strong virtues.]

Guide: 10 francs.



Miscellanious notices

Archiologic collection:

At the gate of the Vitali mansion (Serbelloni Street) one sees arcades and colonnades, statues and bas-reliefs, which are Roman remains in Grecian marble. Many remains and many antique medals, which were found at Bellagio, have been sent to the Museums of Lombardy.

Napoleon's head:

On the Lake of Lecco above Abbadia, several rocks which may be seen from Bellagio appear on the horizon like a figure which local people call the head of *Napoleon the I*, because of its similarity.

Great personage:

Charles Bellosio (1801-1849), the indefatigable and celebrated painter, nicknamed the Apelle Bellagino. Religon, was his best inspiration in his great art. Very remarkalle are the frescos in the royal castle at Racconigi and the painting of the deluge. We have by him at Bellagio the Angelo on the Fransceptre of the modern chapel, to the left in the S. Jacques church, the Madonna in a shop under the Berettas Theatre, another one on the Lillia house, Vittorio Emanuele Square. The pass of Beresina is excellent, but not finished. In the churchyard of Borgo, below a marble bust there is a splendid epitaph.

Parishes :

The commune of Bellagio, is divided ints 3 parishes Borgo S. Jacque, S. Giovanni and Visignola. Each one has a confraternity of the holy sacrament of S. Louis.

Churchyard of Borgo S. Giovanni:

Famous burial monuments. Near the church-yard of Borgo, the heterodox cemetery. In the cemetery of S. Giovanni (recoin Bonanomi) is a Roman sarcophagus.

Industry:

Silk factories, olive wood works, the breeding of silkworms, building yards for ships and works in cement and iron, chalk and cement furnaces. Floriculture, gardens and the cultivation of trees.

Products:

Numerous quarries of cement, stones, chalk, cut stones, dairies, vineyards, mulberry trees, olive, orange and lemon trees, fruits of every kind. The wine of Bellagio, is one of the most famous of Lombardy, Wood for every purpose is abundant on the mountains.

Fishing:

Round the peninsula of Bellagio the lake is rich in fish. It is well know that the fish here are of better quality than any other part of Lake Como or other Italian Lakes.

There are 27 kinds of fish, of which, the principle ones are: Trout, Carps, Eels, Barbel, Perch,

Tench, American Perch. Angling is [free. At the Municipality there is an incubator apparatus belonging to the Pisciculture of Larius.

Shooting:

On the lake there is good sport for duck shooting, water-hens etc. In the mountains and valleys there is abundant game.

Names:

Bellagio from Latin Bilacus, double lake. This lake is named Larius from the etruscan word Lar (prince) or from the greek one Laròs (viz : agreeable).

Shape:

The lake of Como has a form of an inverted y. Colico is the upper point. Bellagio is the east point, Como the west one. As the saying goes:

Le lac de Côme est comme un homme qui a un pied à Lecco e l'autre à Côme.

[The lake of Como is like a man, who has one foot at Lecco and the other at Como.]

Measures :

The surface of the lake 157,9 k.meters square, length 48 k.m., minimum width 750 meters (between Torriggia and Careno) Greatest width 4630 m. (between Bellagio and Menaggio and Fiumelatte). The utmost depth is 414 meters (between Nesso and Argegno). Height of Bellagio above the sea-level is 215 meters.

Tributaries:

The Adda and the Mera at Colico have 64 small branches along the coast. At Bellagio the torrent

of Perlo. The Adda forms the lake at Colico, passes eastward of Bellagio to flow out at Lecco and joins the Po down at Cremona.

Temperature:

From 5 R. till 26 R. climate very mild even in Winter. Health resort in every season, very favourable in Spring and Autunm. In Spring time nature makes even old people young.

A beautiful evening:

In the peaceful evening, the sight of Bellagio is the spectacle of spectacles. The stars that shine in the sky, the moon which rains its peaceful rays, the lanterns of the gondolas that glide lightly, the light of the departing steamer, the little lights of the shops, the brightness of hotels, avenues, the melodious concerts, popular songs which echo on the quiet mirror of the crystaline waters afford such a variety of colours and of reflections that the horizon is filled up like the play of phosphoric magic:

Malheur au temps jaloux gu'effeuille toujours quelques fleurs fanées de cette ghirlande d'heures fortunées!

[A curse on jealous Time that always makes flowers wither of this garland of happy hours.]

Periodic agreeable winds:

The Tivano (little wind) which blows from North to West from sunset to sunrise. The Brevea blowing towards noon from west to North lasting till evening.

Its balsamic air:

entro il polmon capace urta sè stessa e scende

e gli egri spirti accende e le forze rallegra e gli animi rintegra, PARINI.

[It enters vigorously into strong lungs invigorates aged people, giving them fresh strength.]

Most of the places at Bellagio are sheltered from the rough winds, sometimes the pure air makes the panarama appear nearer, beautifying it.

Geology:

The Bellagine belongs to Lias or Sinemurien, period of the Mèsozoique Era. In the quaternaire epoch the glaciers both of Stelvio and Spluga brought with them in their slow march upon our mountains some erratic blocks.

Communications:

To Milan: Bellagio - Civenna - Erba - Milan. — Bellagio - Como - Milano. — Bellagio - Varenna (or Lecco) - Milan (shorter).

To Lugano: Bellagio-Menaggio-Porlezza-Lugano.

To Engadina: Bellagio-Varenna (or Colico)-Chiavenna-Maloia-Engadina.

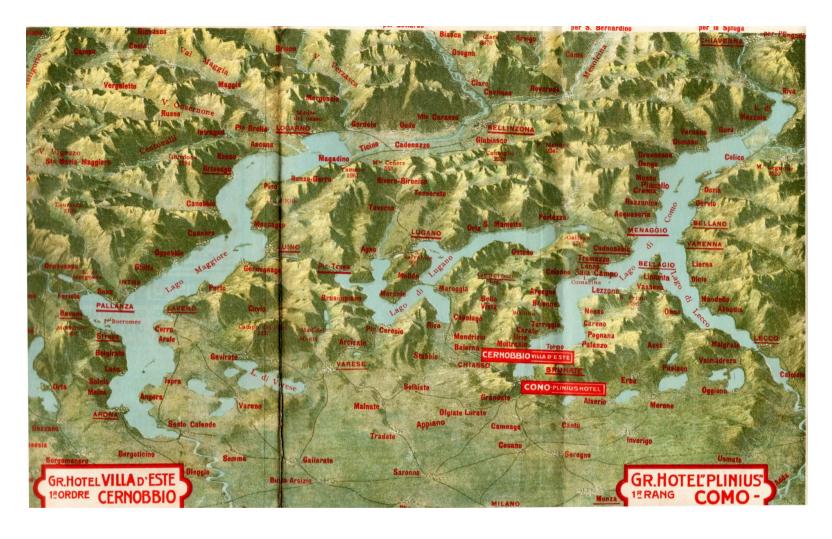
To Spluga and Thusis: Bellagio Chiavenna-Spluga-Thusis.

To Stelvio: Bellagio-Varenna (or Colico)-Sondrio-Tirano-Bormio-Stelvio.

To Bernina: Bellagio Sondrio Tirano Poschiavo Bernina.

To Tonale: Bellagio · Sondrio · Tresenda · Edolo-Tonale.

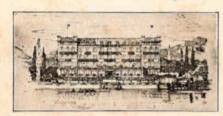
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